713. Four hundred and fifty-two (392) Commercial and Industrial enquiries were received and dealt with during the year. As usual, the enquiries were received from various mercantile bodies and Government Departments in and outside the State. Commercial and Industrial Enquiries.

(ii) The Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravati.

714. The total value of sales effected during the year amounted to Rs. 293·09 lakhs as against Rs. 276·87 lakhs in the previous year and Rs. 254 lakhs in the year 1951-52.

715. The operations during the year resulted in a net profit of Rs. 45·83 lakhs, after meeting Rs. 31·27 lakhs towards Depreciation, Rs. 6·22 lakhs towards interest on Capital and Rs. 3·00 lakhs towards Amenities Fund, as against the net profit of Rs. 33·45 lakhs for 1952-53 and Rs. 32·20 lakhs for 1951-52 Results of Operation.

716. The total outstandings at the end of March 1954 were Rs. 57,48,551.

717. The amount at the credit of the Depreciation Fund at the end of March 1954, was Rs, 3,38,41,426 and of this, a sum of Rs. 2,85,50,435 was invested with Government.

718. A loan of Rs. 35·80 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the year 1953-54 in respect of this scheme. The quotations have been obtained for the Plant and Machinery from foreign firms and are under detailed scrutiny. Sintering Plant.

719. *Construction of Quarters for employees.*—Detailed estimates amounting to Rs. 9·10 lakhs for construction of quarters in New Town area for the employees during the year were sanctioned by Government. The construction of houses was nearing completion by the end of March 1954. Excepting a few houses, the other buildings are completed. The total number of families provided for under this programme is 233. General.

720. The construction of 13 additional labour blocks at Bhadigund Mines at a cost of Rs. 1·50 lakhs for housing about 400 labourers working at the Mines was also sanctioned by Government.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIES

721. The Mysore Labour Housing Corporation undertook the construction of 100 twin type Quarters in the New Town area at a cost of Rs. 5·40 lakhs for allotment to employees, whose income is less than Rs. 125 per mensem under the subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme of the Government of India. The Works agreed to construct the quarters on behalf of the Corporation.

722. Under the provision of the Industrial Disputes Act, Government have declared the Iron and Steel Industry in the State to be a Public Utility Service.

723. The Mangement of Sri Krishnarajendra Hill Station (Kemmangandi) has been taken over by the Works from the Government Gardens Department with effect from 1st August 1953.

(iii) Textile Section of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

724. Yarn worth Rs. 15,45,389, was sold by the Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies. The 39 Weaving Demonstrators of the department lent to the Mysore State Cotton Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, Ltd., were working as Secretaries and *Ex-O cio* Secretaries of some of the important Primary-Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

725. In the 30 Production Centres started by the Mysore Cotton Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, various types of fabrics were manufactured and marketed through the Emporia of the Mysore State Cotton Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society. The Production Centre have not only served to provide employment to the weavers, but also to demonstrate and introduce the new designs and devices produced at the Handloom Research and Designing Centre.

726. The field investigators and other Officers deputed by the Texile Enquiry Committee of the Government of India conducted a systematic sample survey of handlooms in the State. The Government of India sanctioned Rs. 5,61,400 from the State's Share of the Mill Cess Fund for the implementation of the several handloom development schemes. Two schemes, *viz.*, allowing rebate on sale of handloom fabrics and starting of Sales Emporia were